Introduction

In this series of practice books, Dr. Hill uses four levels, his introductory (750-headword), elementary (1,000-headword), intermediate (1,500-headword) and advanced (2,075-headword) levels. This book is at the 1,500-headword level.

Each story is about 150 words long, and some of the stories contain one or two words outside the grading. These are listed on the pages on which they appear, and can be looked up in a dictionary before work is begun. All the levels are very carefully graded, and this covers not only vocabulary, but also idioms and grammar.

These four books are intended chiefly to help students read English more easily and with more comprehension, but they can also be used:

(i) for practice in understanding spoken English (with the student listening to the teacher, or to the cassette);

(ii) for practice in writing English (by answering the questions in English; by writing as much of the story as the student can remember; and by doing the exercises); and

(iii) for improving the student’s command of vocabulary, idioms and grammar (again by doing certain of the exercises).

If the student wishes to use the books only for practice in reading comprehension, he/she should read a story and then answer questions in his/her mother-tongue.

He/She can also try reading some (or all) of the questions first, and then reading the story to find the answers to the questions before answering them. To increase speed of reading, the student can time himself/herself with a watch or clock, and try to read as fast as possible, provided that he/she can still understand.

If the student wants to use this book for practice in understanding spoken English, he/she can use the cassette in the following ways:

(i) He/She can listen to the cassette one or more times (with his/her book open or closed, as he/she wishes) and then read the story aloud himself/herself, at first in chorus with the voice on the cassette, and then alone. After his/her own reading alone, he/she can check his/her performance by listening to the cassette again.
(ii) He/She can listen to the cassette one or more times, with his/her book closed, and then write down as much of the story as he/she can remember, and/or answer the questions and do the exercises (all without looking at the story). If he/she writes as much of the story as he/she can remember, he/she can then look at the story in the book, or listen to it again on the cassette, to compare what he/she has written with the original.

Method (i) gives practice in speaking with a good pronunciation, including stress, rhythm and intonation.

Method (ii) gives practice in aural comprehension (listening and understanding).

Other books by Dr. L. A. Hill are:

*Stories for Reproduction, First series*
4 levels (introductory/elementary/intermediate/advanced)

*Stories for Reproduction, Second series*
4 levels (introductory/elementary/intermediate/advanced)

*Anecdotes in American English*
3 levels (elementary/intermediate/advanced)

*Best Funny Stories 1–3*
3 levels (750 headwords/1,000 headwords/1,500 headwords)

*Word Power*
3 levels (Word Power 1500, 3000, 4500)

*Comprehension Topics*
2 levels (elementary/intermediate)

*Writing for a Purpose*
Mr and Mrs Taylor had one child. He was a boy, he was seven years old, and his name was Pat. Now Mrs Taylor was expecting another child.

Pat had seen babies in other people's houses and had not liked them very much, so he was not delighted about the news that there was soon going to be one in his house too.

One evening Mr and Mrs Taylor were making plans for the baby's arrival. 'This house won't be big enough for us all when the baby comes. I suppose we'll have to find a larger house and move to that,' said Mr Taylor finally.

Pat had been playing outside, but he came into the room just then and said, 'What are you talking about?'

'We were saying that we'll have to move to another house now, because the new baby's coming,' his mother answered.

'It's no use,' said Pat hopelessly. 'He'll follow us there.'

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Mr and Mrs Taylor had a son. [T]
2. Pat was five years old. [F]
3. Mrs Taylor was going to have another baby. [T]
4. Pat did not like babies. [T]
5. Pat was not happy about the new baby. [T]
6. Mr and Mrs Taylor lived in a large house. [F]

B Answer these questions:

1. Did Pat have any brothers or sisters at the beginning of this story? [T]
2. Why was he not happy to hear that his mother was expecting a baby? [T]
3. What did his father say one evening about the baby's arrival? [T]
4. Where was Pat when his father said this? [T]
5. What did he do? [T]
6. What did he ask? [T]
7. What did his mother answer? [T]
8. What did Pat answer? [T]

C Write this story. Put one word in each empty place. You will find all the correct words in the story on page 4.

Before Mr Taylor married, he lived in a very small flat, but when he married, it was no . . . trying to live there with a wife, so he had to . . . to a . . . flat. He was . . . to have a lot of trouble finding one, so he was . . . when he found one easily. Then he had to make . . . for moving his furniture. He also ordered more from a shop in a town, but he had to wait a month for its . . . , because it had to come from the north of England. I . . . he was lucky to have to wait only one month. Some people wait . . . month after month, and finally give up.
An important businessman went to see his doctor because he could not sleep at night. The doctor examined him carefully and then said to him, 'Your trouble is that you need to learn to relax. Have you got any hobbies?'

The businessman thought for a few moments and then said, 'No, doctor, I haven't. I don't have any time for hobbies.'

'Well,' the doctor answered, 'that is your main trouble, you see. You don't have time for anything except your work. You must find some hobbies, and you must learn to relax with them, or you'll be dead in less than five years. Why don't you learn to paint pictures?'

'All right, doctor,' the businessman said. 'I'll try that.'

The next day he telephoned the doctor and said, 'That was a very good idea of yours, doctor. Thank you very much. I've already painted fifteen pictures since I saw you.'

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? Write T or F in the boxes.

1. The businessman wanted to sleep less at night. T
2. The businessman had trouble in sleeping at night because he did not relax enough. T
3. The businessman did not have any hobbies, because he wanted to relax when he was not busy. F
4. The doctor said that he would be dead in five years F

Outside the 1,500 headwords: relax

B Answer these questions:

1. Why did the businessman go to his doctor?
2. What did the doctor tell him? (He told him that . . . .)
3. What did the businessman answer?
4. What did the doctor say was the businessman's main trouble?
5. What did he advise him to do?
6. What did he say would happen if he did not follow his advice?
7. What did the businessman answer?
8. What did he tell the doctor the next day on the telephone?

C Hobbies. Make eight sentences out of this, and put each under the correct picture:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This girl's man's woman's hobby is</th>
<th>a. catching</th>
<th>b. climbing</th>
<th>c. collecting</th>
<th>d. doing</th>
<th>e. growing</th>
<th>f. keeping</th>
<th>g. painting</th>
<th>h. playing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i. fish.</td>
<td>ii. flowers.</td>
<td>iii. mountains.</td>
<td>iv. nothing.</td>
<td>v. pictures.</td>
<td>vi. rabbits.</td>
<td>vii. stamps.</td>
<td>viii. the trumpet.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mary's mother was nearly seventy, and Mary and her husband wanted to give the old lady a nice birthday present. She liked drinking tea, so Mary ordered an electric machine which made the tea and then woke you up in the morning. She wrapped it up in pretty paper and brought it to her mother on her birthday. Then her mother opened the package. Mary showed her how to use it.

'Before you go to bed, put the tea in the pot and the water in the kettle,' she explained to the old lady, 'and don't forget to switch the electricity on. Then, when you wake up in the morning, your tea will be ready.'

After a few days, Mary's mother rang up and said, 'Perhaps I'm being rather silly, but there's one thing I'm confused about: why do I have to go to bed to make the tea?'

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? 
Write T or F in the boxes.
1. Mary's mother was old. 
   T
2. She did not like tea very much. 
   F

Outside the 1500 headwords: kettle

B Answer these questions:
1. How old was Mary's mother?
2. What did Mary and her husband buy her mother?
3. Why did they choose this for her?
4. What could the machine do?
5. What happened when Mary brought her mother the present?
6. What did Mary tell her mother?
7. What did Mary's mother do a few days later?
8. What did she tell Mary on the telephone?

C Put the correct sentences under the correct pictures:
1. Her mother opened it.
2. In the morning, she woke up, and the tea was ready.
3. Mary showed her how to use the machine.
4. Mary's mother switched the electricity on.
5. Mary went to a shop and ordered a tea-making machine.
6. Then she took it to her mother.
7. Then she went to bed.
8. When it came, she wrapped it up.
Mr Grey was the manager of a small office in London. He lived in the country, and came up to work by train. He liked walking from the station to his office unless it was raining, because it gave him some exercise.

One morning he was walking along the street when a stranger stopped him and said to him, 'You may not remember me, sir, but seven years ago I came to London without a penny in my pockets. I stopped you in this street and asked you to lend me some money, and you lent me five pounds, because you said that you were willing to take a chance so as to give a man a start on the road to success.'

Mr Grey thought for a few moments and then said, 'Yes, I remember you. Go on with your story.'

'Well,' answered the stranger, 'are you still willing to take a chance?'

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Mr Grey only walked to his office when the weather was good.  
2. He walked because he was poor.  
3. He had helped the stranger some years before.  
4. He had been willing to take a chance because he wanted to help the man.  
5. The stranger had been successful since then.  
6. Now he wanted to give Mr Grey his money back.

B Answer these questions:

1. Where did Mr Grey work?  
2. Where did he live?  
3. How did he get from his home to his office?  
4. Why didn’t he go from the station to his office by bus every day?  
5. What happened to him one day in the street?  
6. What did the stranger say?  
7. What did Mr Grey answer?  
8. And what did the stranger ask then?

C Answer these questions:

1. What did the stranger say to Mr Grey? Begin your answer with the words, 'The stranger told Mr Grey that he . . . .'
2. What did Mr Grey answer? Begin your answer with the words, 'Mr Grey said that . . . .'
3. What did the stranger say then? Begin your answer with the words, 'The stranger asked him whether . . . .'
During the Second World War it was difficult to travel by plane, because the seats were needed for important government and army people.

Mr Brown worked for the government during the war. He was a civilian, and he was doing very secret work, so nobody was allowed to know how important he was except a very few people.

One day he had to fly to Edinburgh to give a lecture to a few top people there, but an important army officer came to the airport at the last minute, and Mr Brown’s seat was given to him, so he was not able to fly to the city to give his lecture.

It was not until he reached the city that the important officer discovered that the man whose seat he had taken was the one whose lecture he had flown to the city to hear.

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? Write T or F in the boxes.

1. It was difficult for government and army people to find seats on planes during the Second World War.  
2. Mr Brown was an important person.  

Outside the 1 500 headwords: civilian (n.)

B Answer these questions:

1. Why did ordinary people find it difficult to go by plane during the Second World War?  
2. Whom did Mr Brown work for?  
3. Was he in the army?  
4. What work did he do?  
5. Why were only very few people allowed to know how important he was?  
6. Why did he have to fly somewhere one day?  
7. Why didn’t he manage to get there?  
8. What did the important officer find out when he got to the city?

C Do this puzzle:

Across:
1. Not easy.  
6. Put his foot.  
7. Not the same.  
8. Correct; right.  
10. ‘What hats do important officers . . . ?’ ‘They . . . hats like this:

11. If . . . the passengers had not come to the airport, Mr Brown could have got a seat.  
12. There was plenty of room for the officer’s legs in the plane, so he . . . them right out in front of him.

Down:
1. Finds.  
2. Not stale.

3. The army officer was this, and Mr Brown was too.  
4. The officer put his secret papers . . . his seat in the plane.  
5. The officer . . . to the city, but Mr Brown did not.  
9. . . . of the passengers had a ticket, but Mr Brown was not allowed to use his.  
10. This story is about the Second World . . .
Peter Judd joined the army when he was eighteen, and for several months he was taught how to be a good soldier. He did quite well in everything except shooting. One day he and his friends were practicing their shooting, and all of them were doing quite well except Peter. After he had shot at the target nine times and had not hit it once, the officer who was trying to teach the young soldiers to shoot said, ‘You're quite hopeless, Peter! Don't waste your last bullet too! Go behind that wall and shoot yourself with it!’

Peter felt ashamed. He went behind the wall, and a few seconds later the officer and the other young soldiers heard the sound of a shot.

‘Heavens!’ the officer said. ‘Has that silly man really shot himself?’

He ran behind the wall anxiously, but Peter was all right. ‘I'm sorry, sir,’ he said, ‘but I missed again.’

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Peter was good at everything.  [F]
2. Peter was not good at shooting.  [T]

Outside the 1500 headwords: shot (n.), target

B Write these sentences. Choose the correct word in each:

1. Peter is looking at an enemy and trying to shoot  [him, himself.]
2. Now Peter is trying to shoot  [him, himself.]
3. Peter's girl-friend is sitting in front of her sister and making  [her, herself] up.
4. Peter's girl-friend is sitting in front of her sister and making  [her, herself] up.
5. The white donkey is in a field with a black donkey, and it has hurt  [it, itself.
6. The white donkey is in a field with a black one, and it has hurt  [it, itself.]
7. The boys have brought their small sisters to a shop and bought  [them, themselves] some sweets.
8. The boys have brought their small sisters to a shop and bought  [them, themselves] some sweets.
Mr Richards worked in a small seaside town, and he and his wife had a comfortable house near the sea. During the winter they were quite happy there, but every summer a lot of their relatives used to want to come and stay with them, because it was a nice place for a holiday, and it was much cheaper than staying in a hotel.

Finally, one June Mr Richards complained to an intelligent friend who lived in the same place. ‘One of my wife’s cousins intends to bring her husband and children and spend ten days with us next month again. How do you prevent all your relatives coming to live with you in the summer?’

‘Oh,’ the friend answered, ‘that isn’t difficult. I just borrow money from all the rich ones, and lend it to all the poor ones. After that, none of them come again.’

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Mr and Mrs Richards did not have many relatives.  
2. Mr and Mrs Richards often went to stay with their relatives in the summer.  
3. Mrs Richards’s cousin decided to visit them.  
4. Mr Richards was not at all happy about this.  
5. A friend of his told him how to stop visitors.  
6. He borrowed money from his poor relatives, and lent money to his rich ones.

B Answer these questions:

1. Where did Mr and Mrs Richards live?  
2. What was their house like?  
3. Why were they happier in winter than in summer?  
4. Why did their relatives want to visit them?  
5. Who did Mr Richards ask for advice then?  
6. What did he say to him?  
7. And what did his friend answer?  
8. Why did the friend’s relatives not want to visit him again?

C Put one word in each empty place. You will find all the words in the story on page 16.

George liked the sea, so he lived in a house at the . . . . His parents and a lot of his other . . . lived near him. George’s chairs were very hard, so they were not very . . . to sit on. . . . one day his mother . . . about this, saying, ‘I wish you had some softer chairs, George.’ But his father laughed and answered, ‘George is an . . . man: he has hard chairs because he . . . to . . . people . . . too long when they come to visit him! When he wants a soft chair, he can . . . it from our house.’
Mrs Scott bought a new house last year. The walls of the rooms had been painted a short time before, and Mrs Scott liked the colours, but the person who had sold her the house had taken the curtains with him, so Mrs Scott had to buy new ones, and of course she wanted to buy ones whose colours would go with the walls of her rooms. She discovered that her comb was exactly the same colour as these walls, so she always took it with her whenever she went to look for cloth for curtains.

In one shop she showed the shopkeeper the comb and then looked at various cloths for curtains for half an hour with him, until he got tired and said to her, ‘Madam, wouldn’t it be easier just to buy some cloth you like, and then find another comb to go with that?’

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? Write T or F in the boxes.

1. When Mrs Scott bought her new house, she did not have the walls painted.  
2. She kept the curtains which the last owner had had.  
3. She liked curtains whose colour was rather like the walls.  
4. She liked curtains whose colour was very different from the walls.  
5. Her comb and the curtains were the same colour.  
6. Her comb and the walls were the same colour.

B Answer these questions:

1. Why did Mrs Scott not want to have the walls of her new house painted?  
2. Why did she have to buy new curtains?  
3. What kind of curtains did she want?  
4. Why did she take her comb with her when she went looking for cloth?  
5. What happened in one shop?  
6. How did the shopkeeper feel after some time?  
7. What did he say to Mrs Scott?  
8. Why couldn’t Mrs Scott follow his advice?

C Moving into a new house. Make sentences to say where to put things in the house.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>'Please put that'</th>
<th>in the</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. armchair</td>
<td>i. bathroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. bookcase</td>
<td>ii. bedroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. cooking-stove</td>
<td>iii. kitchen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. mirror</td>
<td>iv. living-room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. razor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. refrigerator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. sewing-machine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. television</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. toothpaste</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. vase</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. One shopkeeper suggested that she should get a comb of a different colour instead of cloth like the comb.  
8. One shopkeeper suggested that she should buy some cloth which was like the comb and then find another comb which she liked.
Helen lived with her sister Mary. Both of them were about seventy-five years old, and neither of them had ever married. They had a small, old car, and when they wanted to go somewhere, which they did very rarely, Mary always drove, because her eyes were better.

One weekend they drove to a large town to look at some things which they had read about in the newspaper. Neither of them had been to that town before.

They were driving along in a lot of traffic when they turned right into a street which cars were not allowed to go into. There was a policeman there, and he blew his whistle, but Mary did not stop, so he got on to his motor-cycle and followed them.

After he had ordered them to stop, he said, 'Didn't you hear me blow my whistle?'

'Yes, we did,' admitted Mary politely, 'but Mummy told us never to stop when men whistle at us.'
In England nobody under the age of eighteen is allowed to drink in a public bar.

Mr Thompson used to go to a bar near his house quite often, but he never took his son, Tom, because he was too young. Then when Tom had his eighteenth birthday, Mr Thompson took him to his usual bar for the first time. They drank for half an hour, and then Mr Thompson said to his son, 'Now, Tom, I want to teach you a useful lesson. You must always be careful not to drink too much. And how do you know when you've had enough? Well, I'll tell you. Do you see those two lights at the end of the bar? When they seem to have become four, you've had enough and should go home.'

'But, Dad,' said Tom, 'I can only see one light at the end of the bar.'

**A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)?**

Write T or F in the boxes.

1. When Tom was under eighteen, his father took him to a public bar.  
2. It was the first time that he had taken him to his usual bar.  
3. There was one light at the end of the bar.  
4. Mr Thompson wanted to teach Tom not to drink too much.  
5. Mr Thompson thought he saw four lights.  
6. Tom only saw two.

**B Answer these questions:**

1. Who can drink in public bars in England?  
2. Why did Mr Thompson not take Tom to his usual bar for a long time?  
3. When did he take him?  
4. What did they do there?  
5. What did Mr Thompson say then?  
6. And what did Tom answer?  
7. Who had had enough to drink, Tom or his father?  
8. How did Tom know this?

**C Put the correct sentences under the correct pictures:**

1. But Tom could see only one.  
2. He thought he could see two lights.  
3. Mr Thompson used to go to a bar alone.  
4. Then Mr Thompson pointed to the light at the end of the bar.  
5. Then, when Tom was eighteen, he took him to the bar too.  
6. They drank beer.
Mr and Mrs Davis had four children. One Saturday Mrs Davis said to her husband, 'The children haven't got any lessons today, and you're free too. There's a fun-fair in the park. Let's all go.'

Her husband was doubtful about this. 'I want to finish some work.' he said.

'Oh, forget about it and come to the fair!' his wife said.

So Mr and Mrs Davis took the children to the fun-fair. Mr Davis was forty-five years old, but he enjoyed the fun-fair more than the children. He hurried from one thing to another, and ate lots of sweets and nuts.

One of the children said to her mother, 'Daddy's behaving just like a small child, isn't he, Mummy?'

Mrs Davis was quite tired of following her husband around by now, and she answered, 'He's worse than a small child, Mary, because he's got his own money!'

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Mr Davis and his children did not work on Saturdays. F
2. Mr Davis was eager to go to the fun-fair, but his wife was not. T

Outside the 1,500 headwords: fun-fair

B Answer these questions:

1. How many children did Mr and Mrs Davis have?
2. Where did Mrs Davis suggest that they should take them?
3. How did Mr Davis feel about this?
4. What did he say?
5. What did his wife answer?
6. What did he do at the fair?
7. What did one of the children say about him?
8. What did Mrs Davis answer?

C Choose the correct sentence for each picture:

1. Mr Davis is walking (along) a gate.
2. Mrs Davis is walking (between) a path.
3. Mrs Davis is standing (between) Mary and her brother.
4. Mr Davis is standing (between) his four children.
Mr. Jones bought some things from a big shop last month, and when he got the bill a few days ago, he thought that there was a mistake in it, so he telephoned the shop and asked to speak to the Accounts Department. 'Who do you want to speak to in the Accounts Department?' the telephone operator asked.

'It doesn't matter to me,' Mr. Jones answered. He did not know the names of any of the people who worked there. He heard nothing for a few seconds and then the operator said, 'Hullo, you wanted to speak to someone in the Accounts Department, didn't you?'

'Yes, that's right,' Mr. Jones answered.

'Would you like to speak to Mr Hankinson?' the operator said.

'Yes, that'll be all right,' Mr. Jones said patiently. 'It doesn't matter who I speak to.'

'I'm sorry,' the operator answered, 'but Mr Hankinson isn't in today.'

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Mr. Jones got a bill from a big shop. [F]
2. He believed that the bill was wrong. [T]
3. He only knew Mr. Hankinson in the Accounts Department. [F]
4. The telephone operator tried to get Mr. Hankinson for him. [F]

Outside the 1500 headwords: operator

B Answer these questions:

1. Why did Mr. Jones telephone the big shop?
2. What did the telephone operator ask him?
3. What did he answer?
4. What happened then?
5. What did Mr. Jones say?
6. What did the operator ask him then?
7. What did Mr. Jones answer?
8. And what did the operator say?

C Do this puzzle:

Across:
1. Mr Jones wanted to make an ... to see somebody in the Accounts Department.
2. Big town.
3. In our country, most roofs are not flat: they ... down on both sides.
4. We often ... the telephone to order things from shops.
5. Mr. Jones wanted an ... of the mistake in his bill.
6. Mr. Jones wanted ... speak to someone in this department.
7. Mr. Jones was not in the Accounts Department that day.
8. The telephone operator helped Mr. Jones a lot.
10. 'How many ... were there in Mr. Jones's bill?' 'One.'

Down:
1. Mr. Jones waited ... for an answer, because he was not in a hurry.
2. Mr. Jones spoke to the ... in the big shop. (two words)
3. There was a mistake ... Mr. Jones's bill.
4. and 9. Mr. Jones spoke to the ... in the big shop. (two words)
5. Mr. Jones wanted an ... of the mistake in his bill.
6. Mr. Jones wanted ... speak to someone in the Accounts Department.
7. Mr. Jones pays his account at ... month.
8. Not well.
9. 'Accounts' is one of the ... in the big shop.
10. 'How many ... were there in Mr. Jones's bill?' 'One.'
Mr Hodge was a chicken farmer. He had hundreds of chickens, and sold the eggs and the meat and got quite a lot of money for them, but he lived in a very hot part of the country, and he found that his hens laid hardly any eggs in the summer. So he decided to put air-conditioning into his chicken-house so that the hens would lay well all through the year and he could get more eggs and in that way earn more money.

The owner of the company which sold the air-conditioning came to see him, and when he saw Mr Hodge’s house, he thought that he might be able to persuade him to buy some air-conditioning for that too.

‘Your wife would be much happier and more comfortable then,’ he said to Mr Hodge. But Mr Hodge was not interested.

‘My wife doesn’t lay eggs,’ he said.

Mr Hodge only . . . air-conditioning in his chicken-house.
George Banks was a clever journalist. He worked for a good newspaper, and he liked arguing very much. He argued with anybody, and about anything. Sometimes the people whom he argued with were as clever as he was, but often they were not.

He did not mind arguing with stupid people at all; he knew that he could never persuade them to agree, because they could never really understand what he was saying; and the stupider they were, the surer they were that they were right; but he often found that stupid people said very amusing things.

At the end of one argument which George had with one of these less clever people, the man said something which George has always remembered and which has always amused him. It was, ‘Well, sir, you should never forget this: there are always three answers to every question: your answer, my answer, and the correct answer.’

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)?
Write T or F in the boxes.
1. George only argued with people who were less clever than he was.
2. Stupid people understood what he said, because he spoke very clearly.
3. Stupid people believed that they were always right.
4. George was sometimes amused by stupid people.
5. The stupid man thought that both he and George were wrong.
6. George soon forgot what this man had said.

B Answer these questions:
1. What was George’s job?
2. What did he work for?
3. What was his hobby?
4. Why did he not mind arguing with stupid people?
5. How did stupid people argue?
6. Why did he enjoy that?
7. What did one stupid person say to George?
8. What did George think of this answer?

C Find words in the story which mean about the same as:
1. correct
2. funny
3. intelligent
4. less doubtful
5. made (him) laugh
6. make (them) believe
7. ought to
8. person who writes for a newspaper
9. talking against other people
Pat came over from Ireland to England with his wife one year to find work. He got quite a good job with a building company, and as he did not drink or smoke, he saved up quite a lot of money.

His wife's parents were still in Ireland, and one day she got a telegram to say that her mother was ill, so Pat gave her some money and she went to Ireland to see her.

After a week, Pat wanted to write a letter to her, but he could not read or write very well, so he went to his priest and asked him to do it for him. Pat told the priest what he wanted to say, and the priest wrote it down. After a few minutes Pat stopped, and the priest said, 'Do you want to say any more?'

'Only, "Please excuse the bad writing and spelling",' Pat said.

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Pat brought his wife to England with him. F
2. He did not spend all his money. T
3. His mother-in-law came to England too, because she was ill. T
4. Pat went to see his mother-in-law because she was ill. T
5. Pat wrote a letter to his wife after a week. T
6. He asked his wife to excuse the priest's bad writing and spelling. F

B Answer these questions:

1. Why did Pat come to England? Pat came over from Ireland to England with his wife one year to find work.
2. How did he manage to save money? He got quite a good job with a building company, and as he did not drink or smoke, he saved up quite a lot of money.
3. Why did his wife have to go to Ireland? His wife's parents were still in Ireland, and one day she got a telegram to say that her mother was ill.
4. What did Pat want to do a week later? He wanted to write a letter to his wife.
5. Why didn't he write the letter? He could not read or write very well.
6. Who wrote it for him? His priest.
7. What did the priest say after Pat had finished? 'Do you want to say any more?'
8. And what did Pat answer? 'Only, "Please excuse the bad writing and spelling".'

C Draw lines from the words on the left to the correct words on the right.

1. A building company a. became ill.
2. Pat b. could not read or write.
4. Pat's wife d. went home to see her mother.
5. The priest e. wrote Pat's letter.

Outside the 1,500 headwords: priest
Mark went to a barber's shop and had his hair cut, but when he came out, he was not happy with the result, and when his friend George saw him, he laughed and said, 'What's happened to your hair, Mark?'

Mark said, 'I tried a new barber's shop today, because I wasn't at all satisfied with my old one, but this one seems even worse.'

George agreed. 'Yes, I think you're right, Mark. Now I'll tell you what to do next time you go into a barber's shop: look at all the barbers' hair, and then go to the one whose own hair has been cut the worst.'

'The one whose hair's been cut the worst?' Mark repeated. 'But that would be foolish!'

'Oh, no, it wouldn't,' answered George. 'Who do you think cut that man's hair? He couldn't cut it himself, could he? Another of the barbers cut it—and he must have been a worse barber than the one whose hair he cut.'

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Mark's hair was cut badly.          T  
2. He had not been to that barber's shop before.  F  
3. It was better than the one he used to go to before.  F  
4. His friend George advised him to choose the barber whose hair looked the worst.  T  

B Answer these questions:

1. How did Mark feel when he came out of the barber's shop?
2. What did his friend George do when he saw him?
3. And what did George say?
4. What was Mark's answer?
5. What did George suggest then?
6. And what did Mark answer?
7. What did George say then?
8. Which barber would have the best haircut?

C Choose the right sentences for each picture:

1. a. Mark has cleaned his shoes. 1  
   b. Mark has had his shoes cleaned. 2  
   c. Mark is cleaning his shoes. 3  
   d. Mark is having his shoes cleaned. 2  

2. a. Mark has cleaned his shoes. 1  
   b. Mark has had his shoes cleaned. 2  
   c. Mark is cleaning his shoes. 3  
   d. Mark is having his shoes cleaned. 2  

3. a. Mark has cleaned his shoes. 1  
   b. Mark has had his shoes cleaned. 2  
   c. Mark is cleaning his shoes. 3  
   d. Mark is having his shoes cleaned. 2  

4. a. Mark has cleaned his shoes. 1  
   b. Mark has had his shoes cleaned. 2  
   c. Mark is cleaning his shoes. 3  
   d. Mark is having his shoes cleaned. 2  

5. Barbers cut each other's hair.  
6. The barber whose hair is cut the worst cannot be the worst barber.
Mrs Harris’s husband died when she was forty-five years old. She had a son, who was eighteen years old at that time.

Mrs Harris was not a widow for very long. She met a nice man who was a few years older than she was, and two years after her first husband had died, she married for the second time. Her son, Peter, was twenty years old then.

Mrs Harris had a nice, quiet wedding in the village church, and after that, they had the usual party at her house for her family and her new husband’s, and for some of their friends, but Peter was very late for the party. At last he hurried in, kissed his mother, and said, ‘I’m sorry I’m late, Mum, but I’ve been looking everywhere for a card which says, “To my Mother, for her Wedding,” and I haven’t been able to find one.’

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Mrs Harris was twenty-five when Peter was born. [F]
2. She was forty-seven when she married her second husband. [T]

B Answer these questions:

1. Why did Mrs Harris marry when she was forty-seven?
2. Who was Peter?
3. How old was he then?
4. What kind of wedding did Mrs Harris have?
5. What happened after the wedding?
6. Why was Peter late?
7. What had he been looking for?
8. Why hadn’t he been able to find it?

C Put the correct sentences under the correct pictures:

1. He had been looking in the shops for a card for his mother’s wedding.
2. Mrs Harris married for the first time when she was young.
3. Peter arrived very late.
4. She had a son a year later, and she called him Peter.
5. She married him in the village church.
6. Then she met a nice man.
7. Then there was a party at her house.
8. When she was forty-five, her husband died.
A long time ago, when aeroplanes were not very big or strong yet, all passengers had to be weighed with their luggage, so that planes did not have to carry more than it was safe to carry. Then later, when aeroplanes became bigger and stronger, only the luggage had to be weighed; and now very often, the luggage has to be measured instead of being weighed, because size is more important to the airlines than weight. Aeroplanes are so big and strong now, that they can carry almost any weight.

But before a passenger can travel by Hawaiian Airlines, he or she still has to be weighed. Once when one fat man was asked by the airlines’ clerk how much he weighed, he thought for a few seconds and then said to her:

‘With or without my clothes?’
‘Well, sir,’ the girl answered, ‘how are you planning to travel?’

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Aeroplane passengers were weighed a long time ago.  [ ]
2. Later, only the luggage was weighed.  [ ]

Outside the 1,500 headwords: airline

B Answer these questions:

1. Why did aeroplane passengers have to be weighed a long time ago?
2. Why did they not have to be weighed some years later?
3. What happens to luggage now?
4. Why is it treated in this way?
5. What still happens at Hawaiian Airlines?
6. What did the airlines’ clerk there ask one fat man?
7. What did he answer?
8. What did the clerk say then?

C Do this puzzle:

Across:
1. The fat man wanted to travel in an . . . .
5. The . . . why luggage often does not have to be weighed any more is that aeroplanes can now carry more weight than before.
7. The passengers stand . . . line . . . order to give their tickets to the airlines’ clerk.
8. This is usually weighed before it is put on a plane.

Down:
1. The clerk worked for an . . . .
2. ‘Was the fat man . . . thinking of travelling without any clothes?’ ‘No, of course not!’
3. Dug up the ground with a machine.
4. Make plans.
6. Less sour or bitter.
10. We can cook by electricity or . . . .
When Dick was six years old, he went and stayed with his grandparents in the country for a few weeks in the summer. He talked a lot with his grandmother while he was there, and she told him a lot of interesting things about their family which he had not known before. When he came home again to his own parents, he said to his father, 'Is it true that I was born in London, Daddy?'

'Dick, it is, Daddy,' his father answered.

'And were you really born in Germany?' Dick asked.

'Yes, that's right,' his father answered. 'I was.'

'And is it true that Mummy was born in Ireland?' Dick continued.

His father said, 'Yes, it is, but why are you asking me all these questions?'

Dick answered, 'Because when Granny told me all those things while I was with her, I couldn’t understand how we had all met.'

Outside the 1,500 headwords: Granny

---

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Dick and his grandmother talked to each other a lot. [ ]
2. Dick already knew a lot about his family. [ ]
3. His grandmother told him a lot about it. [ ]
4. Dick's parents had been born in the same country. [ ]
5. Dick had been born in a different country. [ ]
6. Dick had met his parents in Germany. [ ]

B Answer these questions:

1. Whom did Dick visit when he was six?
2. How did Dick find out a lot of interesting things about his family?
3. Whom did he talk to about these things when he came home?
4. Where had Dick been born?
5. Where had his father been born?
6. And where had his mother been born?
7. What did his father say when he asked a lot of questions?
8. And what did Dick answer?

C Put what, which or who in each empty space:

1. Dick's grandmother told him things . . . he had not known before.
2. She told him . . . he wanted to know.
3. Dick had a father . . . had been born in Germany.
4. It didn't matter . . . Dick asked: his grandmother knew the answer.
5. ' . . . a strange thing!' Dick thought. 'We were all born in different places, but we all met.'
6. '. . . of those men is Dick's father?' 'The tallest one.'
7. ' . . . is he?' 'He's a teacher.'
8. ' . . . is that woman?' 'She's Dick's mother.'
When Dave Perkins was young, he played a lot of games, and he was thin and strong, but when he was forty-five, he began to get fat and slow. He was not able to breathe as well as before, and when he walked rather fast, his heart beat painfully.

He did not do anything about this for a long time, but finally he became anxious and went to see a doctor, and the doctor sent him to hospital. Another young doctor examined him there and said, 'I don’t want to mislead you, Mr Perkins. You’re very ill, and I believe that you are unlikely to live much longer. Would you like me to arrange for anybody to come and see you before you die?'

Dave thought for a few seconds and then he answered, 'I’d like another doctor to come and see me.'
Joe was one of those people who love the sound of their own voice. He never had anything interesting to say, but he talked and talked and talked, and every story he told reminded him of another one, so that he never stopped for a second to let anybody else say anything.

One evening he was invited to a party by someone whom he had met only a few days before and who did not know him very well yet. They had a good meal, and then they had some music and dancing. Joe danced once with a pretty girl and then suggested that they should sit and talk. He talked and talked and talked, and was just beginning, 'And that reminds me of the time . . . ,' when the girl said, 'The time? Yes, you're quite right!' She looked at her watch quickly and said, 'Look how late it is. I must go.'

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)?
Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Joe liked talking very much. T
2. People did not enjoy listening to him. F
3. He stopped other people saying anything. F
4. He was invited to a party by an old friend. F
5. Joe wanted to talk instead of dancing. F
6. A girl asked Joe to talk instead of dancing. F
7. Joe was probably going to say, 'And that reminds me of the time that I was . . . ,' but the girl stopped him. T
8. Joe was probably going to say, 'And that reminds me of the time. It's late. I must go,' but the girl stopped him. T

B Answer these questions:

1. What kind of person was Joe?
2. What happened whenever he found someone to talk to?
3. What happened one evening?
4. What did Joe and the pretty girl do?
5. What did Joe do then?
6. What was he saying when the girl stopped him?
7. What did she do?
8. And what did she say?

C Put forget, remember or remind in the first empty place in each of these sentences; and put taking or to take in the second empty place in each.

Mrs Smith always has to . . . . her son . . . . his coat to school.

Mrs Smith always has to . . . . her son . . . . his coat to school.

Did Mrs Smith's son . . . . . his coat to school yesterday? Yes, he did.
Matthew Hobbs was sixteen years old. He had been at the same school for five years, and he had always been a very bad pupil. He was lazy, he fought with other pupils, he was rude to the teachers, and he did not obey the rules of the school. His headmaster tried to make him work and behave better, but he was never successful—and the worst thing was that, as Matthew grew older, he was a bad influence on the younger boys.

Then at last Matthew left school. He tried to get a job with a big company, and the manager wrote to the headmaster to find out what he could say about Matthew.

If you can get Matthew Hobbs to work for you, you will be very lucky.

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Matthew had come to his school when he was eleven. F
2. He was always a good boy. F
3. The younger boys learnt good manners from him. T
4. Matthew got a job with a big company. F
5. His old headmaster got a letter from the manager. T
6. The headmaster answered the letter cleverly. T

B Answer these questions:
1. How did Matthew behave at school?
2. What did his headmaster do about it?
3. Did he succeed?
4. What made things even worse?
5. What did Matthew do when he left school?
6. What did the manager of the company do?
7. How did the headmaster feel about this?
8. What did he write to the manager?

C Put the right sentences under the right pictures:

1. He did not obey the school rules.
2. He fought with other pupils.
3. He was a bad influence on the younger boys.
4. He was rude to the teachers.
5. Matthew was a lazy boy.
6. The headmaster wrote a clever answer.
7. The manager wrote to his headmaster.
8. Then he left school and tried to get a job in a company.
Harry came to his mother one morning while she was having her breakfast, and said to her, 'No one at my school likes me, Mother. The teachers don’t, and the children don’t. Even the cleaners and the bus drivers hate me.'

'Well, Harry,' his mother answered, 'perhaps you aren’t very nice to them. If a few people don’t like a person, he or she may not be responsible for that; but if a lot of people don’t, there’s usually something wrong, and that person really needs to change.'

'I’m too old to change,' Harry said. 'I don’t want to go to school.'

'Don’t be silly, Harry,' his mother said, going towards the garage to get the car out. ‘You have to go. You’re quite well, and you still have a lot of things to learn. And besides that, you’re the headmaster of the school.'

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)?

Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Harry was a schoolboy.
2. He liked going to school.
3. His mother wanted him to go to school too.
4. His mother thought he should change, because a lot of people did not like him.

Outside the 1,500 headwords: cleaner

B Answer these questions:

1. What did Harry say to his mother?
2. When did he say this?
3. What did his mother answer?
4. And what did Harry say then?
5. What was his mother’s answer?
6. And what did she do while she was saying that?
7. Why did she do this, do you think?
8. What did you think Harry was when you started reading this story?

C Do this puzzle:

Across:
1. A headmaster is ... for seeing that everything goes well in his school.
7. Aeroplanes land and take off here.
8. Harry could not ... why he should go to school.
9. These people clean places.
10. Harry was the headmaster of the ... .
12. The teachers and the children did not like Harry, and ... the cleaners and bus drivers hated him.
15. These people teach pupils.
18. These people are the top people in schools.

Down:
1. Harry had several ... for not wanting to go to school.
2. The pupils probably did not like him because he was ... with them.
3. These people drive pupils to school.
5. Some teachers are men, and some are ... .
6. When the headmaster comes into a class, all the pupils ... up.
11. Harry said to his mother, ‘All the people at school ... me.’
13. All the pupils at that school help ... other.
14. ‘... afternoon’ means ‘today, in the afternoon’.
16. If you want to shoot straight, you must ... your gun carefully.
17. Because.
Mrs Watson was a doctor's wife. She had a nice neighbour, Mrs Potts. They often did each other's shopping.

One day, Mrs Potts had to go to Dr Watson because she was ill, so Mrs Watson said, 'I'll do your shopping today, Beryl.' Mrs Potts told her that she only wanted a sheep's kidney.

Mrs Watson went to the shops, and when she came back, she went to Mrs Potts's house, but she was not there, so she went to her own house. She looked in her husband's waiting-room, but Mrs Potts was not there either, so she went into her husband's office. Her husband told her that Mrs Potts had just left him and gone to the lavatory.

Mrs Watson ran out into the crowded waiting-room just in time to catch Mrs Potts. She shouted, 'Here's your kidney!' and ran and gave her the parcel.

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Mrs Potts lived near Mrs Watson.  
   - T

2. Mrs Watson was ill.  
   - F

3. Mrs Watson did Mrs Potts's shopping.  
   - T

4. During this time, Mrs Potts went to the lavatory and then to Dr Watson's office.  
   - F

Outside the 1 500 headwords: kidney

B Answer these questions:
1. What work did Mrs Watson's husband do?  
   - ?

2. Who was Mrs Potts?  
   - ?

3. How did she and Mrs Watson help each other?  
   - ?

4. Why did Mrs Watson offer to do Mrs Potts’s shopping one day?  
   - ?

5. What did Mrs Potts ask her to get?  
   - ?

6. Where did Mrs Watson look for Mrs Potts when she came back?  
   - ?

7. Where was Mrs Potts?  
   - ?

8. What did Mrs Watson shout to her when she found her at last?  
   - ?

C Write the sentences for each picture. Choose the correct words.

1. Mrs Potts came in | seeing | to see | the doctor.  
   - seeing

2. She came in | laughing. | to laugh.  
   - laughing

3. She said, 'I can't help | laughing. | to laugh. | I've just heard a good joke.'  
   - laughing

4. Dr Watson's nurse helped her | to walk. | walking.  
   - walking

5. The doctor said, 'Are you willing | to wait. | waiting | a few minutes? | This machine needs | mending. | to mend.'  
   - to wait

6. She answered, 'No, I don't mind | to wait. | waiting. | You don't need | hurrying. | to hurry.'  
   - to hurry
Jim was intelligent, but he hated hard work. He said, ‘You work hard, and earn a lot of money, and then the government takes most of it. I want easy work that gives me lots of money and that the government doesn’t know about.’

So he became a thief—but he did not do the stealing; he got others to do it. They were much less intelligent than he was, so he arranged everything and told them what to do.

One day they were looking for rich families to rob, and Jim sent one of them to a large beautiful house just outside the town.

It was evening, and when the man looked through one of the windows, he saw a young man and a girl playing a duet on a piano.

When he went back to Jim, he said, ‘That family can’t have much money. Two people were playing on the same piano there.’

Outside the 1 500 headwords: duet, rob

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)?

1. Jim was clever, but lazy.
2. He didn’t like paying taxes.
3. He always used clever people to steal for him.
4. They tried to find rich families.
5. One of his men played a duet on a piano with a girl.
6. The girl’s family was poor.

B Answer these questions:

1. Why did Jim become a thief?
2. How did he steal things?
3. What was his job in this?
4. Why was he good at it?
5. What did he send one of his men to do one evening?
6. What did the man see?
7. What did he say to Jim?
8. What mistake did he make?

C Opposites: Find words in the story on page 52 which mean about the opposite of:

1. difficult
2. lazy
3. little
4. more
5. old
6. poor
7. small
8. spend
9. stupid
10. ugly
Fred sometimes liked to go to a bar to have a drink before he went home after work. There were some tables and chairs in the bar, but it was too early for most people when Fred was there, so he seldom found anyone to talk to.

Then one evening he went into the bar and saw a man playing draughts at a table, but he could not see anyone in the chair opposite him. He went nearer to look, and was very surprised to see that the man was playing against a dog. When it had to move one of its draughts, it stood on its back legs on the chair.

Fred watched while the two played their game, and when the dog lost, Fred went up to its owner and said, 'I've never seen such a clever dog before.'

'Well,' answered the other man, 'he isn't really very clever. I always win.'

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? Write T or F in the boxes.

Outside the 1 500 headwords: draughts

Fred always had his drink at home. T
He talked to a lot of people in a bar. F

B Answer these questions:

1. Where did Fred sometimes go after work? A man was playing draughts at a table.
2. Why did he seldom find anyone to talk to there? The bar was almost empty.
3. What did he see one evening? A man was playing draughts with a dog in the bar one evening.
4. Why was he very surprised when he went nearer? The dog moved the draughts itself.
5. How did the dog manage to play? The dog sometimes won the game.
6. Who won? Fred was very surprised.
7. What did Fred say then? Fred went into his usual bar.
8. What did the dog's owner answer? He sat down at a table.

C Put the right sentences under the right pictures:

1. A man was playing draughts at a table.
2. Fred could not see anyone playing against him.
3. Fred went into his usual bar.
4. He sat down at a table.
5. He saw a dog sitting in the chair opposite the man.
6. He went nearer.
7. The bar was almost empty.
8. When the dog wanted to move a draught, it stood on its back legs on the chair.
Henry was from the United States and he had come to London for a holiday.

One day he was not feeling well, so he went to the clerk at the desk of his hotel and said, 'I want to see a doctor. Can you give me the name of a good one?'

The clerk looked in a book and then said, 'Dr Kenneth Grey, 610 10.'

Henry said, 'Thank you very much. Is he expensive?'

'Well,' the clerk answered, 'he always charges his patients two pounds for their first visit to him, and £1.50 for later visits.'

Henry decided to save 50p, so when he went to see the doctor, he said, 'I've come again, doctor.'

For a few seconds the doctor looked at his face carefully without saying anything. Then he nodded and said, 'Oh, yes.' He examined him and then said, 'Everything's going as it should do. Just continue with the medicine I gave you last time.'

A  Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Henry wanted the clerk at the hotel to send a good doctor to his room.  
2. The clerk gave him the name and address of a doctor.  
3. Henry wanted to know how much it cost to go to him.  
4. The first visit to the doctor cost less than later visits.  
5. Henry tried to make the doctor believe that he had been to him before.  
6. The doctor knew that he had not seen Henry before.

B  Answer these questions:

1. Why did Henry have to ask someone else for the name of a doctor?  
2. What did the clerk do?  
3. What did Henry ask him then?  
4. And what did the clerk answer?  
5. What did Henry decide?  
6. What did he do?  
7. What did he say to the doctor?  
8. And what was the doctor's answer?

C  Put one word in each empty place. You will find all the correct words in the story on page 56.

Dr Brown is a kind man. He left England to work in a foreign country when he was 25. Some of his . . . are quite poor, and he . . . them very little. And when they need . . . medicines, he sometimes even pays for them himself. One day a . . . who worked in a small office brought him his son. He was very ill, and he knew that only very expensive medicines could . . . him from dying. Dr Brown . . . the boy carefully. 'Well,' the father said, 'what have you found, doctor? Will he be all right?' The doctor . . . without looking at him. He thought for a minute and then said, 'Yes, he'll be all right. I'm going to give you some medicine for him. He must . . . taking it for a month. We don't want him to die, do we?"
The sailor ordered rabbit for his meal.
5. The cat made a noise because its tail hurt.
6. The restaurant gave people cat's meat instead of rabbit's.

B Answer these questions:
1. What was Mrs Jenkins's job?
2. Who did she have working for her?
3. What did the sailor do?
4. Why was Mrs Jenkins surprised?
5. What did she do then?
6. What did she ask the waitress?
7. And what did the waitress answer?
8. What had the sailor thought?

C Choose the correct sentence for each picture:

1. The sailor arrived late, but he was not late to get some lunch.
2. The waitress was surprised when the sailor left, but Mrs Jenkins was more surprised.
3. The sailor could run fast, but his friend could run faster.

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)? Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Mrs Jenkins's restaurant was very big. [F]
2. A sailor came in, but he did not like the waitress, so he went out again. [T]
3. Mrs Jenkins was surprised when the sailor left. [T]
There is a prison in Iceland which allows its prisoners to go out without any guards to work every day. They work on the farms near the prison during the day, and come back to have their evening meal and to sleep every evening. Before they are allowed to go out like this, they have to promise to come back every evening. If they do not promise this, they are not let out.

One night one of the prisoners was invited to have a meal and a drink with the family of the farmer he was working for, so he came back to the prison very late. He had to knock at the gate several times before the guard came to let him in.

The guard did not like being disturbed at this time, so he said to the prisoner angrily, ‘If you come back so late again, I won’t let you in.’

Outside the 1 500 headwords: guard (n.)

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)?
Write T or F in the boxes.
1. The guards in the prison in Iceland were on the farms with the prisoners during the day.
2. The prisoners had to have their evening meal on the farms.
3. They spent the night in the prison.
4. One prisoner had his meal on a farm one evening.
5. The guard did not like opening the gate late at night because he was afraid.
6. He did not let the prisoner in.

B Answer these questions:
1. In what way is the prison in this story different from most others?
2. What work do the prisoners do?
3. What do they have to do in order to be allowed to work outside?
4. What happens if they do not do this?
5. Why was one prisoner very late one night?
6. What did he have to do to get into the prison again?
7. How did the guard feel about this?
8. What did he threaten to do if the prisoner was late again?

C Put it, not or so in each empty place, but only if one of these is needed:
1. ‘Did all the prisoners promise to come back every evening?’ ‘Yes, I think . . .’
2. ‘Did they always come back?’ ‘No, I expect . . .’
3. ‘Did the prisoners work really hard on the farms?’ ‘I wonder . . .’
4. ‘Did the farmer who invited the prisoner like him?’ ‘Yes, I suppose . . .’
5. ‘Do you think the prisoner who was late ever came late again?’ ‘I doubt . . .’
6. ‘Did the guards ever lock a prisoner out?’ ‘No, I hope . . .’
7. ‘I think that was a nice prison.’ ‘I agree . . .’
8. ‘We have prisons like that in Britain too.’ ‘I don’t believe . . .’
Peter was 10 years old, and he was having painting lessons every week at a small private class.

During the Christmas holidays, he had a party at his home, and he wanted to invite one of the other students, but he only knew her name — Celia Poe. He did not know her address or her telephone number.

Peter's mother looked in the telephone book and said, ‘Well, there are only four Poes here, so I'll telephone each of them and ask whether they have a daughter who has painting lessons.’

She telephoned the first one, and the telephone rang for rather a long time before a woman answered. Peter’s mother said, ‘Excuse me. Is that the Mrs Poe who has a daughter who takes painting lessons?’

‘No, it isn’t,’ the woman answered. ‘This is the Mrs Poe who had to get out of her bath to answer the telephone!’

A Which of these sentences are true (T) and which are false (F)?
Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Peter studied painting with a lot of other children. [ ]
2. One of the other students was called Celia. [ ]
3. There were a lot of Poes in the telephone book. [ ]
4. The first one that Peter's mother telephoned was Celia’s mother. [ ]
5. Peter's mother spoke to Mrs Poe politely. [ ]
6. The woman was in her bath when the telephone rang. [ ]

B Answer these questions:

1. How old was Peter?
2. Where did he study painting?
3. Why did he want to telephone Celia?
4. Why was it not easy to do this?
5. How did his mother plan to help him?
6. What did she say to the first woman she telephoned?
7. And what was the woman's answer?
8. How did the woman feel, do you think?

C Do this puzzle:

Across:
1. This tells you when you have to go to each class.
2. Peter was having these every week.
3. ‘Was Peter studying painting in a public class?” ‘No, he was studying it . . . ’
4. ‘What did Peter do in his class?’ ‘He . . . pictures.’
5. ‘Did Peter like his painting lessons?’ ‘Yes, he . . . them very much.’
6. A woman had to get out of her bath to answer this.
7. ‘Did Peter find Celia’s telephone number . . . ?’ ‘No, it was very difficult.’
8. ‘How did the many feel, do you think?’
9. Peter’s friend was called Celia . . .